



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re patent application: S/N: 10/730,165 Filed 12/08/2003

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Examiner: Gilbert Y. Lee Supervisory Examiner: Suzanne L. Barrett Art Unit: 3673

Title: **Hydro-Flex Seal And Method For Making Hydro-Flex Seal**

First named inventor: Stephen A. Sekulich Attorney docket number: Seal

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

April 26, 2006

Dear Sir,

This is a response to the first-office-action that is assumed to be paper number three with a mailing date of November 28, 2005. This is paper number four.

IN THE CLAIMS

- §1 Please cancel claims 31 through 49.
- §2 Please cancel claims 55 through 63 and claims 65 through 70
- §3 Please add the following claim as a substitute for claim 50 and all of the claims that claim 50 is dependent on:
- 71 An improved housed shaft sealing element that has a flex area between the part of the sealing element to bear on the shaft and the part of the sealing element clamped in the housing, wherein the improvement comprises:
a circumferential hinge groove in the flex area having a depth less than the thickness of the sealing element in the flex area; and
a wiper lip including an ID (inside diameter) of said wiper lip that is greater than the OD (outside diameter) of the shaft.
- §4 Please cancel claim 50.
- §5 Please add the following claim as a substitute for claim 64 and all of the claims that claim 64 is dependent on:
- 72 An improved housed shaft sealing element that has a flex area between the part of the sealing element to bear on the shaft and the part of the sealing